

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A compound capable of inhibiting β -secretase wherein the compound is of formula I:

R^1 -V-X-Y-Z-A-E-F (SEQ ID NO:93)

(I)

or a variant thereof in which any of V, A, E and F is/are replaced by a conservative substitution,

wherein V, A, E and F are valine, alanine, glutamic acid and phenylalanine, respectively;

R^1 is chosen from hydrogen, acetyl, t-butoxycarbonyl and carbobenzoyl;

X is chosen from methionine, phenylglycine, n-leucine (n-Leu), asparagine, phenylalanine, glycine and valine;

Z is chosen from valine, α -aminobutyric acid (Abu), phenylglycine (Phg) and alanine; and

Y is statine, acha (cyclohexylmethylstatine) or phenylstatine (Phe-sta) wherein the phenyl group of phenylstatine optionally has mono or di-substitution chosen from the group consisting of Cl, F, Br, methyl and methoxy.

7. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 6, wherein said β -secretase inhibitor is chosen from the group consisting of R^1 -~~VMSta~~VAEF Val-Met-Sta-Val-Ala-Glu-Phe (SEQ ID NO:94); Ac-~~VPhgSta~~VAEF Val-Phg-Sta-Val-Ala-Glu-Phe (SEQ ID NO:95); R^1 -~~Vn-Leu-Sta~~VAEF Val-[[n-]]Leu-Sta-Val-Ala-Glu-Phe (SEQ ID NO:96); R^1 -~~VNSta~~VAEF Val-Asn-Sta-Val-Ala-Glu-Phe (SEQ ID NO:97); R^1 -~~VFSta~~VAEF Val-Phe-Sta-Val-Ala-Glu-Phe

(SEQ ID NO:98); and R¹ - ~~V-MPhe-staVAEF~~ Val-Met-phenyl-Sta-Val-Ala-Glu-Phe (SEQ ID NO:99).

8. (Original) The compound of claim 7, wherein in said β -secretase inhibitor R¹ is H or acetyl.

9. (Original) The compound of claim 8, wherein in said β -secretase inhibitor R¹ is acetyl.

10. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 9, wherein said β -secretase inhibitor is Ac-~~VMStaVAEF~~ Val-Met-Sta-Val-Ala-Glu-Phe (SEQ ID NO:[94]]100).

11-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 6, wherein the phenyl group of phenylstatine has mono or di-substitution chosen from the group consisting of Cl, F, Br, methyl and methoxy.